

great deal of heaven before they get there. Close to God here, they will find the gates of pearl opening to them all in good time, and they will go in to be "forever with the Lord!"—The Christian.

Precious Faith

Among the other precious things of which the Apostle Peter speaks is faith (II Pet. 1:1.) Whether we are to understand faith in this connection as referring to the whole series of promises which set forth and embody the great salvation, or the special disposition of mind which lays hold on God by means of his revelation, is not a matter of great practical importance. No doubt it may be understood either way, or both ways. Certain it is that the things set forth to the faith of men, such as the substance of the gospel—to wit., "that Christ died for our sins, according to the scriptures, and that he was buried and that he was raised again on the third day, according to the scriptures"—are most precious. It is equally true that the disposition in man to believe these things and turn to God on account of them, trusting him henceforth, and living for his glory, is precious. Without the revelation of God in Christ, which is the substance of our faith, there could be nothing for man to believe or hope for beyond this life. If, therefore, we consider faith to mean the setting forth of those things which "brought life and immortality to light thru the gospel," how can we speak it as being other or less than precious? On the other hand, if these things, by which we are saved from sin and death, are made over to us by means of our faith, or disposition to believe and trust God in Christ for them, such a disposition, however it may have been produced, can be nothing short of precious to us. Having already considered the preciousness of Christ, and the exceeding great and precious promises by means of which we are made partakers of the divine nature, we call attention to faith as it stands for the mental and spiritual attitude of the sinner toward God.

We cannot read the Bible with the least attention, without observing that faith, taken in its subjective meaning, is the most important factor in the Christian life. It characterized all the men of old who knew and walked with God, who were the objects of the divine favor, and his friends and witnesses on the earth. It was faith that bound Abel to God and led him to obey him in the matter of the sacrifice, "by which he obtained witness that he was righteous." It was by faith that the ancient worthies, such as Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, David, the Judges, Daniel, and the other prophets, obtained their distinguished places in the world, and secured to themselves that friendship of God and power from on high which enabled them to live out their lives in righteousness in the midst of an alienated and wicked world, and do exploits which have made them more famous than all the rest of the heroes of the earth. So eminent

is faith among the graces that the prophet Habakkuk has set it down as a principle that "the just shall live by faith"; thus making faith the procuring and maintaining cause of spiritual life. To this sentiment the great apostle responds by quoting the declaration of the prophet in each of his three great epistles, to the Romans, to the Galatians and to the Hebrews. With this text placed to his lips, like a trumpet, "Luther blew a blast that wakened a sleeping world to life, from Rome to the Orkneys." Who that has considered well the sayings of our Lord but that has noticed how he emphasizes the necessity of faith. "All things are possible to him that believeth." "If thou canst believe." "Believeth thou that I am able to do this." "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say," etc. Only twice during his earthly life and ministry was our Lord said to be surprised. Once at the unbelief of his own townsmen at Nazareth, on account of which he could do no mighty works among them; and once at the remarkable faith of the Roman centurion, who refused to suffer him to go down to his house to heal a favorite servant, on the ground that his word was quite sufficient. In the one case he "marveled at their unbelief," and, in the other case, he "marveled at his faith," which he said he had not seen equaled in Israel. It was "slowness of heart to believe" that brought from the lips of the Master that stinging rebuke to his disciples after his resurrection. It is faith that lies at the foundation of our character, and into which all other virtues, such as knowledge, temperance, and so forth, are to be mixed.

What startling and wonderful things are affirmed of faith. It procures for us what mountains of diamonds cannot buy. Silver and gold, which are but corruptible things, could not redeem us, but the precious blood of Christ. So no worldly wealth, nor human powers or virtue, can put the soul in possession of that great redemption, but faith only. "God gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth should not perish, but have everlasting life." By faith in Christ are we justified; by faith are we born again; by faith are we enabled to overcome the world and resist the devil; by faith the vision of another world is opened to our view, and things not seen and spiritual are made substantial realities to us. Tho we are still left in the flesh, we yet live so that it is "Christ that liveth in us;" and tho we have yet to fight with the world, the flesh and the devil, we are made strong by faith to fight a good fight and lay hold on eternal life. Amid all the restless uncertainty of this life the man of faith "knows that all things work together for good" to him; and while others are full of unrest, by reason of sin and uncertainty, by faith we are enabled to and "do enter into rest." The mighty power of faith makes it precious to him who possesses it, and should inspire a covetous desire on the part of those who have it not to possess it; for without it, whatever else they may have or do, they cannot please God.

The preciousness of faith is heightened when we remember that it is not a new and extraordinary faculty given from God. Should a curious onlooker have observed the mighty wonders wrought by the rod of Moses, and desired to look at it as tho in itself it were some wonderful thing, he would have been surprised to find that it was nothing more nor less than the shepherd's rod with which he had tended sheep in the back part of the desert, before the Lord called him to go down to Egypt. It is even so of faith. The faith that justifies, and regenerates, and makes the weakest man mighty with God and man, is nothing other than the common and ordinary faculty and disposition in man by which he transacts all the common and ordinary affairs of life. But this common and humble every-day power of the mind, which is found in the peasant as well as in the king, is raised to unspeakable glory and power when it is lifted up to and rests upon the Son of God, and transacts business with Heaven and the future thru his unchangable and oath-bound word. It is doubly precious, because of its mighty power, when used to lay hold on the precious promises of God, and because it is a power that is common to all.

Missions

Indiana State Missions

RECEIPTS FOR APRIL

Roll of honor,	\$28 00
Claypool,	4 00
Elkhart Union Meeting,	8 00
North Manchester,	1 83
North Manchester Sunday school,	2 55
Milford,	3 70
Dawin,	1 72
Henry Rinehart,	5 00
Mrs. H. Rinehart,	5 50
Flora,	5 25
Flora Y. P. S. C. E.,	1 00
Mt. Pleasant,	3 35
Mt. Pleasant Sunday school,	80
Nappanee,	7 30
Warsaw,	4 00
B. Chapel,	1 37
Oakville,	22 00
Mexico,	14 40
Sidney,	5 00
Roann,	1 45
Tiosa,	4 00
Tiosa S. S. C. E.,	2 60

Total \$132 82

I have received offerings from Brighton, New Enterprise, Oakville, Poplar Grove and Lapaz, but not in time for April statement. May we not hear from all churches which have not responded and will you not give us an offering for the state work? I need 101 names and dollars yet to make our list of 300, per plan at our State Conference. Who will help us to make up the required number?

Receipts from Oct 3 to May 1,	\$283 45
Receipts, plus surplus of last year,	\$468 77
Pledges, or R. of H.,	117 00

Total \$855 77

Thus you see we are not quite half way yet to raise \$1000 this year for our work. May we attain our end is my prayer.

WM. H. MILLER, Sec.

North Manchester, Ind.